

Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Vice Chairman

Reid J. Nelson
Executive Director, Acting



November 18, 2022

The Honorable Charles F. Sams
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

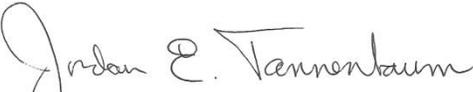
Dear Mr. Sams:

As the vice chairman and acting chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), I am writing regarding the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the unique opportunity that its public lands funding presents to assist the National Park Service (NPS) in preserving its multitude of historic properties. As your agency decides how best to spend this funding for conservation projects, staffing, and deferred maintenance, I urge you to consider strategic investments in cultural resources protection, including hiring and training in the traditional trades that are essential to the preservation of historic buildings and structures.

There currently is a shortage of skilled preservation craft workers, which poses a problem for effective preservation of America's historic built environment. To highlight the issue and how the federal government might take action to help address it, the ACHP adopted a [Policy Statement on Promotion and Value of Traditional Trades Training](#) in October 2020. The IRA funding for NPS staffing and deferred maintenance provides opportunities for NPS to hire craftspeople and maintenance staff adept in the traditional trades, as well as potentially provide training. Perhaps deferred maintenance spending could support apprenticeships in the traditional trades, which would not only help address immediate maintenance needs but also would be an investment in training a new generation of preservation craftspeople. Likewise, if IRA funding for conservation and resiliency projects is directed to conservation corps activities involving cultural resource protection, there would be the opportunity to introduce corps members to the traditional trades and provide training.

I understand that NPS's IRA spending plans are already well advanced, but hopefully the multi-year nature of the funding will permit ongoing consideration about how this important influx of funds might help preserve NPS cultural resources and assist in hiring and training in the traditional trades. The ACHP would welcome an opportunity for further dialogue with NPS on these ideas. Please feel free to contact me or Reid Nelson, acting executive director, at rmelson@achp.gov.

Sincerely,


Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Vice Chairman